

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
30 April 2026
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Neil Vickers, Chair

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: 2215 North 2200 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Trustees Present: Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Chair
Van Turner, Vice-Chair
Luz Escamilla (Joined the meeting virtually at 1:08 p.m., during Item 2)
Dr. Shireen Mooers

Trustees Excused: Amanda Barth

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO
Christopher Bibbs, Laboratory Director
Robert Czubak, MOCA Systems (Left after Item 2)
Bradley Sorensen, Aerial Operations Supervisor (Left after Item 2)

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Vickers called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Update on Construction:

Robert Czubak, MOCA Systems, and Aerial Operations Supervisor Sorensen provided the Trustees with a construction overview, including April's accomplishments and an updated project schedule. Some punch list items are being addressed currently; it is hoped that substantial completion can be achieved by 9 June 2026 and that we will have the certificate of occupancy by the middle of June. Eckman Construction has agreed to pay for storing the helicopter off site while our hangar is being completed. Fortunately, VDCI is under contract with us and is able to provide larvicide services until we are able to utilize our helicopter.

Upon completing the construction update, Aerial Operations Supervisor Sorensen and Robert Czubak left the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

3. Approval of the 19 March 2026 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

Copies of March's regular Board Meeting Minutes had been distributed to the Board Members previously, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the 19 March 2026 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner, and it carried unanimously.

4. Presentation of the March 2026 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

The Trustees were provided copies of March's Financial Statements earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks noted receiving March's \$150.00 electricity payment from Eckman Construction and a \$269,198.67 final 2025 tax settlement from the Salt Lake County Treasurer. Interest income of \$73,672.54 was distributed between the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund, and a total of \$583,321.67 was expended from the General and Capital Projects Funds. All expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to items over \$1,000.00. Documentation for the payments was reviewed when the checks were signed, and the credit card statements, supporting invoices/receipts for all payments, and Balance Sheets were made available for review. Trustee Escamilla made a motion to approve the March 2026 Financial Statements and bills for payment; Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor.

5. Discussion and Approval for Hiring Consultant Dr. Steven Su:

We have some local students assisting us with a few projects this summer, but we are experiencing added pressures due to the departure of Assistant Director Dr. Gregory White to MAD-Davis. Dr. Steven Su is the Founder, CEO, and Chief Entomologist of EcoZone International LLC, a research and development agency in California. He is also the leading global expert on mosquito larvicide resistance. We have worked with him in the past on a variety of projects, including diagnosis of resistance to *Lysibacillus sphaericus*. And, because his specialty is in the larval component, we reached out to him to see if he had any interest in assisting us with routing insecticide biomonitoring and additional operational projects. We would like him to help jumpstart and then assist in overseeing these projects for us. The majority of his work will be required during the initial startup phase, and relying on his expertise will be less imperative once we are able to hire an Assistant Director. Executive Director Faraji would like to have the flexibility of utilizing Dr. Su's experience when needed.

Trustee Escamilla made a motion to approve hiring consultant Dr. Steven Su to assist with research projects at \$150.00 an hour, up to \$15,000 in 2026. The \$15,000 ceiling may be revisited in 2027. Trustee Turner seconded her motion, and it carried unanimously.

6. Report on Attended and Reminder/Approval of Upcoming Training/Meetings:

- **AMCA, 23-27 March 2026, Portland, OR**

Executive Director Faraji, Molecular Biologist Byers, Education Specialist Rehbein, and Laboratory Director Bibbs attended and provided presentations at this year's AMCA Conference. Recurring larvicide resistance monitoring and land use were some of the areas of focus. The American Mosquito Control Association's Annual Conferences are always enlightening and afford multiple opportunities for learning, collaborations, and networking.

- **PacVec/RahpVec/SLCMAD, 8-10 April 2026, Salt Lake City, UT**

Trustee Vickers organized a joint meeting between the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence and the Rockies and High Plains Vector-Borne Disease Center. Executive Director Faraji delivered the keynote address at this conference. The University of Utah hosted the meeting, and it ran from the afternoon of 8 April 2026 through the morning of 10 April 2026. The District hosted the meetings on the last day at our facility. Approximately 150 persons participated in the student presentations and touring our District on Friday 10 April 2026. Friday's participants enjoyed a tour of the facility and unveiling of the helicopter.

- **Pacific Branch - ESA, 13-16 April 2026, Spokane, WA**

Executive Director Faraji attended the Entomological Society of America, Pacific Branch meeting. He has been elected to the Board of Directors and will be serving for the next three years.

- **New Mexico Environmental Health Association, 20-22 April 2026, Albuquerque, NM**

Executive Director Faraji delivered the keynote address at the New Mexico Environmental Health Association's conference this year. His presentation discussed RaHP VEC activities and the operations of SLCMAD. He invited the participants to stay in our dormitory while visiting our District and learning about our mosquito control operations.

- **3i Initiative, 24 April 2026, University of Utah**

Laboratory Director Bibbs and Executive Director Faraji attended and presented at the Immunology, Inflammation, and Infectious Disease (3i) Initiative conference held on 24 April 2026.

- **UMAA Workshop, 8 May 2026, SLCMAD, UT**

The District hosted the annual UMAA Spring Workshop on 8 May 2026. Classes ranged from the history of mosquito control in Utah to the impact West Nile virus had on a survivor's life. Education Specialist Rehbein provided a presentation on Mosquito Biology Basics, and Laboratory Director Bibbs presented on Non-Target Impacts from Mosquito Control.

- **DSLASA, 11 June 2026, MAD-Davis, UT**

DSLASA's meeting will be held at the hangar in June. Trustee Vickers will be out of town and unable to attend this meeting.

- **AMV, 5-7 August 2026, Thailand**

In August, Executive Director Faraji will be providing a plenary lecture at the Asia-Pacific Conference on Mosquito and Vector Control. The conference is being hosted by Kasetsart University, and the meeting will focus on innovative collaboration in AI and technology to advance vector control.

7. Executive Director's Report:

March's Director's Report had been previously distributed to the Trustees. Laboratory Director Bibbs discussed current mosquito surveillance data and five-year averages with the Board Members. He also provided the Trustees with an overview of the Cliff Swallow project. John Cavitt, an ornithologist with Weber State University, will conduct additional studies to identify the impact mosquitoes actually have on the cliff swallow's diet. In addition, the following items were discussed: 1) We have hired 38 seasonals to conduct integrated mosquito control this summer. 2) Executive Director Faraji gave the Trustees an update on his plans for hiring a new Assistant Director.

8. Probable Agenda Items for 21 May 2026 Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m.:

- Executive Director's Report
- Construction Update
- Personnel Update
- Policies and Procedures Amendment

9. Public Comment:

No public was present.

10. Adjournment:

At 2:36 p.m., Trustees Mooers and Turner made and seconded a motion to adjourn the 30 April 2026 Board Meeting of the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District. The motion passed with all in favor.

Ary Faraji, Executive Director

Date

Neil Vickers, Chair 2026

Date